

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Poplar Hill Labor Camp House Survey Number: WI-38

Project: Proposed rehabilitation Agency: S/DPSCS

Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Owned by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, this frame house is located within the Poplar Hill Pre-Release Camp. Constructed c. 1750, the 1 1/2 story building is significant for its vernacular tidewater architecture, a rare surviving 18th century example. Based on existing information, this office believes that the building is eligible for the Maryland Register for it embodies distinctive characteristics of type, period and method of construction. Early features include the summer beam, flemish bond brick piers, arched firebox, beaded clapboard on south facade, steep gable roof, and some interior woodwork c.1840. Twentieth century alterations consist of window replacement, roof sheathing, north facade addition, supporting concrete block foundation. Despite these alterations, the building retains sufficient integrity of design, setting, location and materials to be eligible.

*Note that early exterior cornice survives above ceiling of rear addition, and retains early paint finishes. I visited site in 1982; ceiling was open temporarily. As I recall cornice is blue + yellow. ORV*

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MHT Inventory, Compliance file Poplar Hill Labor Camp House

Prepared by: Anne Clay, Preservation Trust of Wicomico Co., Wirt Wolfe Contractor

Lauren Bowlin 11/28/95  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: ☒ yes ☐ no ☐ not applicable

Orlando Ridout v 11-28-95  
Reviewer, NR program Date

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT****I. Geographic Region:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Shore	(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
<input type="checkbox"/> Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

**II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Paleo-Indian	10000-7500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Archaic	7500-6000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Archaic	6000-4000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Archaic	4000-2000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Woodland	2000-500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Woodland	500 B.C. - A.D. 900
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Woodland/Archaic	A.D. 900-1600
<input type="checkbox"/> Contact and Settlement	A.D. 1570-1750
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930
<input type="checkbox"/> Modern Period	A.D. 1930-Present
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Period ( <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> historic)

**III. Prehistoric Period Themes:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Subsistence
<input type="checkbox"/> Settlement
<input type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Demographic
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Technology
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Adaptation

**IV. Historic Period Themes:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
<input type="checkbox"/> Government/Law
<input type="checkbox"/> Military
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Educational/Cultural
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation

**V. Resource Type:**Category: buildingHistoric Environment: ruralHistoric Function(s) and Use(s): domestic/single dwelling

Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_

WI-38

MID 18th

House on Poplar Hill Labor Camp  
Quantico  
Public (restricted access)

This frame house on the grounds of the Poplar Hill Labor Camp, dating from c. 1750, is a 1 1/2 story structure with Flemish bond brick basement and steeply pitched gable roof. It has been known by various names in its long history but is probably best known as "Brick House's Farm." Various elements of the houses construction, in particular the central summer beam, rough hewn log joists supporting the first floor, the steeply pitched "A" shaped roof and beaded clapboard siding are typical building characteristics in Maryland in the mid eighteenth century. The structure is significant because of its age, since relatively few examples of colonial architecture are extant in Wicomico County.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME** Brick House Farm  
Gales Union  
Kennerly Land  
Poplar Hill Farm  
House on Poplar Hill Labor Camp

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Quantico CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maryland COUNTY Wicomico

☒ VICINITY OF

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME State of Maryland Telephone #: 321-3686

STREET & NUMBER Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Suite 500 - One Investment Place

CITY, TOWN Towson, Md STATE, zip code

☐ VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: Folio #:  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER Wicomico County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Salisbury, Maryland STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Wicomico County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis, Md STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

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The 18th century (c. 1750) frame house on Poplar Hill Labor Camp is situated in the upper northeast part of the Camp's 142 + acre tract along the edge of Quantico Creek, the northern boundary of the Camp. The property is accessible only via the Labor Camp road running north off Route 349, about 3 miles west of the town of Quantico.

The house is a 1 1/2 story frame structure with Flemish bond brick basement with steeply pitched gable roof. The front (south) facade is three bays wide with a centrally placed door. A replacement cement slab porch foundation, raised two feet above ground by cement blocks, crosses the entire front facade at first floor level. The porch itself may also date to the 18th century. Supporting the porch roof at its southernmost edge are four wooden Doric columns supplemented by two square, crude wooden pillars placed between the outer columns on each side. The front wall beneath the porch is covered by random length beaded clapboards with pieces overlapping horizontally approximately 1/2 inch. The front and all exterior walls of the house are painted white.

The first floor windows have been altered (probably not recently) by shortening the bottom of the window opening approximately 18" and replacing with new sash. The windows are 6/6 sash and flank the center door which contains a 3/3 glass panel in its top half.

Four engaged Doric half columns punctuate the front facade at the outer edges and between the windows and center door.

The west facade of the house is dominated by a large brick chimney flanked on either side by 6/6 sash windows at first floor level and 4/4 sash windows at second floor. The exterior wall is covered with painted wood shakes.

The east facade presents a blank wall except for two small casement windows at second floor level. The exterior finish is random length beaded and painted clapboarding. A low cement block shed addition (for a pump housing) joins the building at its southeast corner at ground level, immediately to the right of which is a basement entrance with cement steps.

The north (rear) facade features one 6/6 sash window at its west end at first floor level. The exterior wall finish on the west end of the first floor is painted wood shakes. At the east end is a one story shed addition containing a kitchen and bath, covered with the same random length beaded clapboarding as appears on the east facade. The shed addition contains one 6/6 sash window on its west side, and two 6/6 sash windows on its north side.

Interior inspection of the basement reveals that the floor joists are rough hewn logs with summer beam at the central core. The first floor plan consists of two rooms with hall. The interior walls of the entire house have been sheathed with fiber board strips (typical of military temporary building material). All sash are replacements

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES                      c. 1750                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      unknown

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Study of Wicomico County Land Records reveals that the house on Poplar Hill Labor Camp has been known variously as "Gales Union," "the Kennerly Land," "Poplar Hill Farm," and "Brick House Farm," the latter name apparently being the one by which it was best known.

The natural gifts of the area, particularly its position on the Quantico Creek and proximity to rich agricultural production areas, contributed to the early and successful establishment of the village of Quantico and its environs as a milling and marketing center as early as the first part of the 18th century.

- Numerous elements of the house's construction, in particular the central summer beam and rough hewn logs supporting the floors and the steeply pitched "A" shaped roof, are characteristic of colonial building styles in Maryland c. 1750. The structure is significant because of its age, since relatively few examples of colonial architecture are extant in Wicomico County.

The house is currently in use as a classroom for inmates.

**Recommendations:**

The structure is minimally used by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. As an example of early 18th century colonial Maryland building, it should be preserved. It is recommended that the house be moved to a location in a more suitable and publicly accessible setting elsewhere in Wicomico County.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Wicomico County Land Records, See attached chain of title for references  
 Vertical files of the Wicomico County Library  
 Interview with Mr. French, of Quantico, family member of a previous owner

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 142

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

~~Any~~ See attached continuation sheet # 1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Susanne Moore, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

21 State Circle/Shaw House  
 Annapolis, Md 21401

December, 1980  
 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

House on Poplar Hill Labor Camp  
Quantico, Maryland  
WI - 38

as are three doors on the first story. Narrow boards cover the original wide pine flooring. The house appears to have been remodeled c. 1840 because of the appearance of the woodwork in the stair hall and the doors to the second story rooms.



WI-38

House on Poplar Hill Labor Camp

#### Addenda

This early frame house was examined briefly on July 2, 1982. Numerous significant construction features were evident. These include: the unusually heavy framing visible, particularly the first story ceiling joists; the tilted false plate eave construction; a rare or possible unique board roof constructed of pit sawn boards similar to weatherboards rather than riven clapboards; evidence in the crawl space of the existing south porch of an earlier porch and of the original front cornice. Other sections of cornice survive within the loft of the rear lean-to. This section of cornice retains very fine early paint evidence.

The house measures 20 feet 0 inches deep and 41 feet 3 inches in length. A rough sketch plan was started but time did not allow time for completion. Some additional notes are filed in the vertical file.

WI-38  
House on Poplar Hill Labor Camp  
Quantico  
Public (restricted)

Item 10  
Continuation sheet #<sup>1</sup>

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

All that tract or parcel of land situate lying and being in Quantico Election District, Wicomico County, State of Maryland, on the northerly side of and binding upon the State Road leading from Salisbury to Nanticoke (known as Maryland Route 349) and on the southerly side of and binding upon Quantico Creek, identified on Department of Assessments and Taxation Wicomico County Map #35 as "Parcel 8."

House on Poplar Hill Labor Camp  
Quantico  
Public (restricted)  
WI-38

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- 1849  
4/11 John and Ann Dickson sold to George Austin 556 3/8 acres,  
parts of Gales Union and Cannons Good Luck, adjoining Quantico  
Creek and the county road from Wetipquin to Quantico  
Liber W. P. 4, f. 324
- 12/10 John and Ann Dickson sold to George Austin "Westlow Neck," a  
small tract south of Quantico Creek with a wharf  
Liber W. P. 4, f. 453
- 1854  
9/26 George and Louise Austin sold this land with others, total  
694 1/2 acres, part of Gales Union and Westlow Neck, to  
Cadmus Dashiell  
Liber L. W. 3, f. 175
- 1856  
5/6 John and Ann Dickson sold 300 acres to William A. Kenne  
Parts of Gales Union, Cannons Good Luck, and Westlow Neck  
mentions a road to a wharf and landing on Quantico Creek  
Liber L. W. 4, f. 568
- 1857  
1/27 Cadmus and Harriet Dashiell sold the 694 1/2 acres of Gales  
Union, Westlow Neck, to William A. Kennerly  
Liber L.W. 5, f. 133
- 1865  
4/26 Marcellus Dashiell and William Dashiell sold 40 acres to  
William A. Kennerly, adjoining Quantico Creek with the  
use of a road to Dashiell's landing; mentions a mill belonging to  
Kennerly  
Liber L.W. 9, f. 151
- 1866  
1/9 William Dashiell and Marcellus Dashiell sold 47 acres  
to William A. Kennerly, with a road to Steam Mill Road  
part of Westlow's Neck  
Liber L. W. 9, f. 426
- 1868 Wicomico County created
- 1868  
4/30 Purnell Toadvine obtained title to 532 acres of Kennerly's  
land, Gales Union also known as the Liber TFJR 1 f. 165  
Brick House Farm

House on Poplar Hill Labor Camp  
Quantico  
Public (restricted)  
WI-38

1889  
11/23

E. Stanley Toadvine conveyed this and other lands,  
1400 acres, to William F. Causey  
F.M.S. 5, F. 285

1900  
3/5

Robert P. Graham, trustee, and Louis and Ida Becker to  
Joseph Gottschak and the Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company  
of Baltimore, the above land.  
Liber J. T. T. 27, f. 483

1900  
5/10

Joseph Gottschalk and the Mercantile Trust and Deposit  
Company to George M. Messick and Herbert Messick the  
same land.  
Liber J. T. T. 33, f. 197

5/10

George Messick and Herbert Messick to Alpheus H. Holloway,  
the same land  
Liber J. T. T. 33, f. 391

1904  
6/1

Alpheus H. and Florence Holloway to Adele Force Watt  
the same land, now known as Poplar Hill Farm  
Liber E.A.T. 42, f. 108

Adele Force Watt to James A. French, the same land  
E.A.T. 70, f. 378

1950

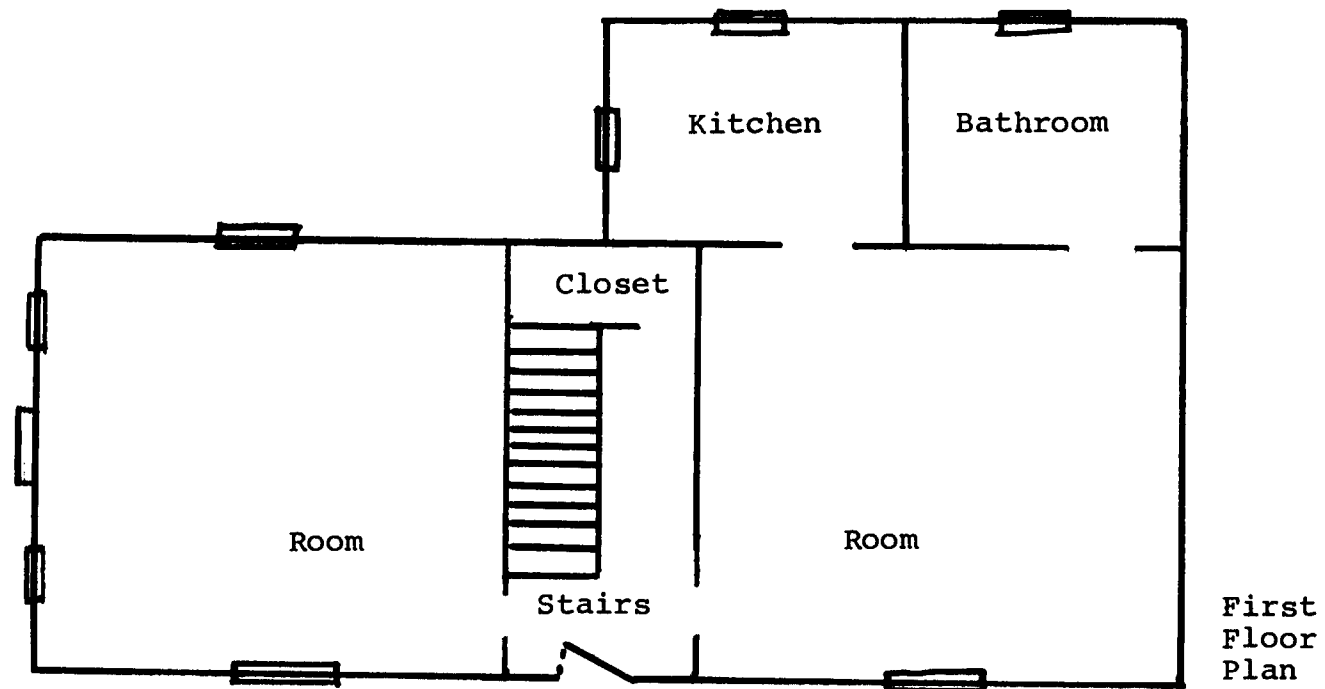
Carrie A. French et al to Fannie E. Adkins,  
the same land  
Liber 317, F. 352

1950  
4/29

Fannie E. Adkins to Jay and Clara French  
Liber J.W.T.S. 317, f. 354

1957  
5/15

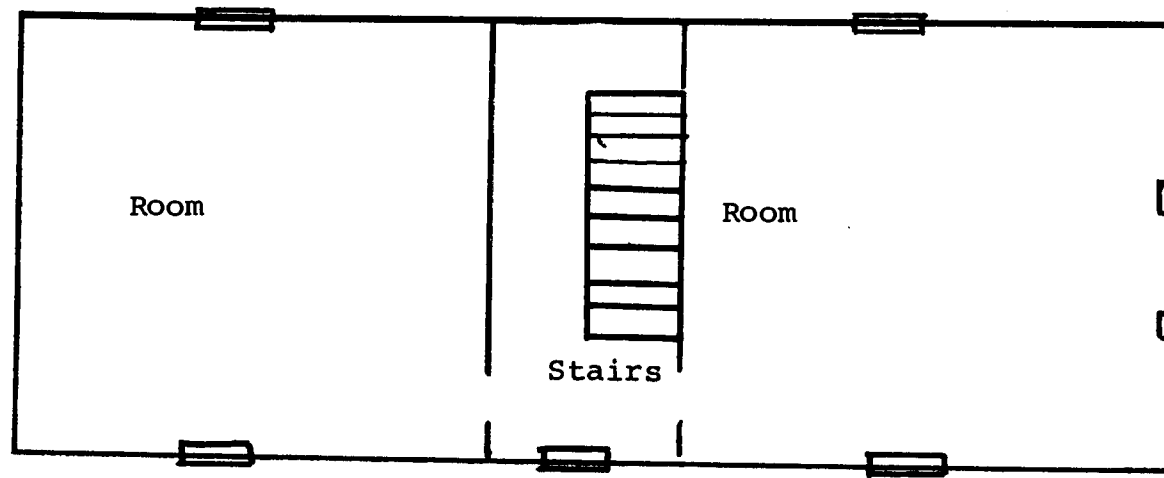
Jay and Clara French to the State of Maryland to the use of  
the Department of Corrections 241 acres to be known as Poplar  
Hill Labor Camp  
Liber J.W.T.S. 426, f. 330



Susanne Moore  
October 1980

WI-38  
House on Poplar Hill Labor Camp  
Quantico

1"=5' approxi-  
mately



Second  
Floor  
Plan

Susanne Moore  
October 1980

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House on Poplar Labor Camp  
Quantico

1"=5' approximately

WI-38

MARGARET C. McCRANN

791/25  
48.50 A  
P.37

CLAYTON H. PILCHARD

676/291  
66.35 A  
P.36

QUANTICO

HOUSE PRE 1900



POPLAR HILL LABOR CAMP  
STATE OF MARYLAND  
DEPT. OF CORRECTION  
426/330  
142.54 A.  
P.8

NANC  
PH  
80  
10  
F

MABEL C. ELLIOTT

832/856  
93.00 A.  
P.9HOUSE ON POPLAR HILL  
LABOR CAMP

WI-38

Dept of Assessments & Taxation  
Wicomico County - Map 35  
1" = 600'  
Rev July 1, 1979

MAP 45-P.18

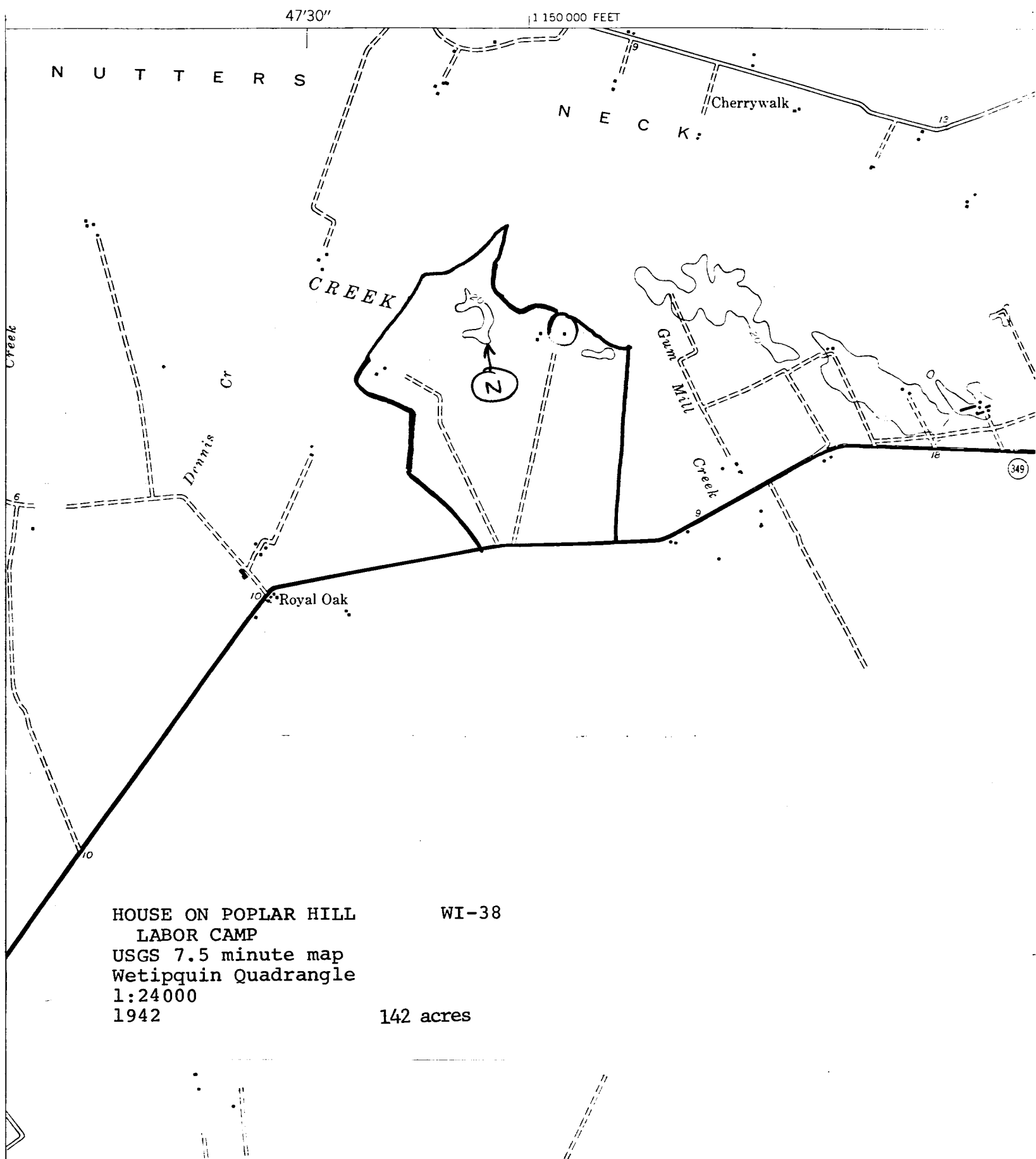
WI-38

WETIPQUIN QUADRANGLE

MARYLAND

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SE/4 NANTICOKE 15' QUADRANGLE







House on Poplar Hill Labor Camp WI-38  
Wicomico County, Maryland  
Susanne Moore  
October 1980  
Md Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md  
Front (south) facade  
1/4



House on Poplar Hill Labor Camp WI-38  
Wicomico County, Maryland  
Susanne Moore  
October 1980  
Md Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md  
Southwest corner  
2/4



House on Poplar Hill Labor Camp WI-38  
Wicomico County, Maryland  
Susanne Moore  
October 1980  
Md Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md  
Northwest corner  
3/4



House on Poplar Hill Labor Camp WI-38  
Wicomico County, Maryland  
Susanne Moore  
October 1980  
Md Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md  
Southeast corner  
4/4





W1-38

